



STARRING

JULY  
NO. 365

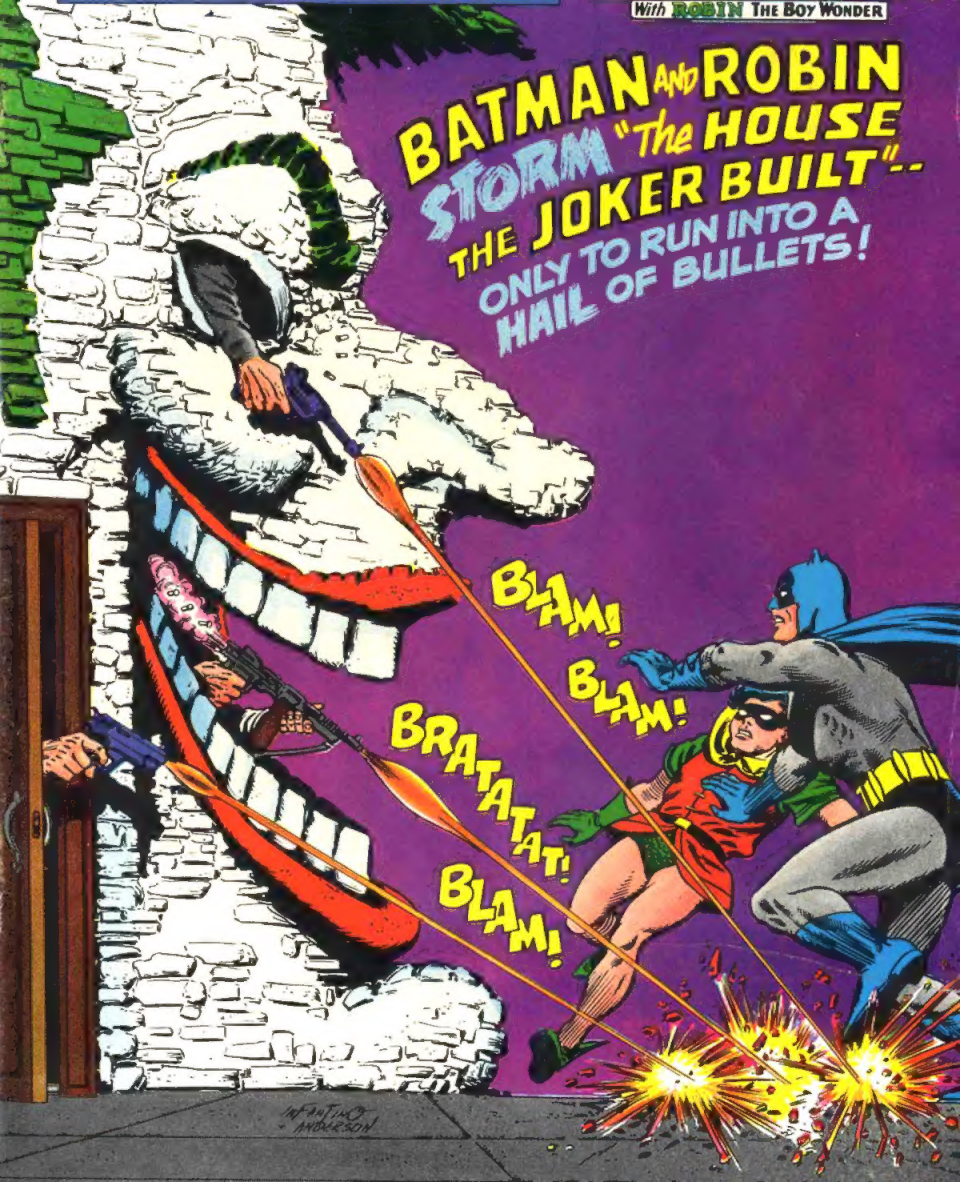
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# DETECTIVE COMICS

# BATMAN

With **ROBIN** The Boy Wonder

**BATMAN AND ROBIN**  
**STORM "The HOUSE**  
**THE JOKER BUILT"...**  
**ONLY TO RUN INTO A**  
**HAIL OF BULLETS!**



IN FANTASY  
ANDERSON



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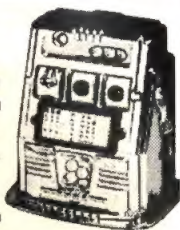
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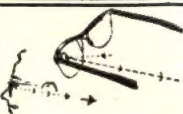
## Boomerang

Here's something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo! you're all set to "fire" again. More fun than a "barrel of monkeys." No. 141 ..... 75c



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A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing you're watching. Really comes in handy at times. No. 30 ..... 75c

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Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car... then watch him when he starts the engine! The howls and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or fall apart—when you roar with laughter. No. F132 ..... 50c

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Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims' face? It's harmless. No. 612 ..... 15c



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Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like... like ONIONS! Its too funny! 12 slices to a pack. No. 281 ..... 20c

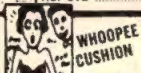
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THAT HYENA LAUGH--  
THAT CHALK-LIKE  
FACE--THOSE STUNTS  
OUT OF LEFT FIELD--  
AND THE SUDDEN  
DANGER TO **BATMAN**  
AND **ROBIN!**  
WHAT CAN ALL  
THESE ITEMS ADD  
UP TO--EXCEPT THE  
**JOKER**, MADMAN  
OF MAYHEM, CRIMINAL  
GAGSTER SUPREME!  
WATCH THIS FAR-OUT  
FELON PUT THE  
**MASKED MAN-**  
**HUNTERS** TO THE  
STERNEST TEST YET  
WHEN HE LURES  
THEM TO--



# BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER



## The HOUSE THE JOKER BUILT!



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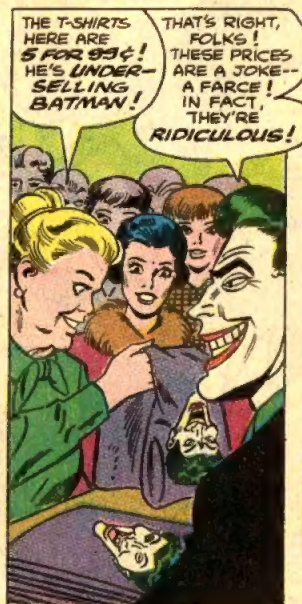
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NINE A.M. ...AND THE DOORS OF GRACEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE, THE BIGGEST IN GOTHAM CITY, SWING WIDE TO ADMIT AN ARMY OF SHOPPERS EAGER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A STORE-WIDE SALE...



AS THE INVASION SPREADS THROUGH THE MAIN FLOOR...





THAT MAN IN THE JOKER MASK HAS NO BUSINESS THERE! HE MUST HAVE SNEAKED INTO THE STORE DURING THE NIGHT--AND SET UP HIS WARES! REMOVE HIM FROM THE PREMISES!

ALL RIGHT, YOU--COME WITH ME!



YOU HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO TO THE POLICE!

HEE HEE HEE! DON'T DO THAT! YOU TOUCHED MY FUNNY BONE!

AND WHAT YOU SAID IS EVEN FUNNIER...



THEN AS THE "MAN IN THE JOKER MASK" EXECUTES A SWIFT MOTION...

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I DIE OF LAUGHTER! HEE HEE HEE

Gasps!! HE THREW HIS MASK AT THE GUARD! AND LOOK-- UNDER THE MASK--



HE GOT AWAY! SOMEBODY--CALL THE POLICE!

FINALLY GOT THAT MASK OFF! HE HAD SOME KIND OF STICK-UM ON IT--!



--IT IS THE JOKER! THE REAL ONE!

AAA

SEND A LARGE SUPPLY OF SMELLING SALTS TO THE MAIN FLOOR--QUICKLY!



WITHIN THE HOUR, A GRIM COUNSEL...

...AND THERE YOU ARE, BATMAN AND ROBIN! THE JOKER WAS IN GRACEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE THIS MORNING--SELLING THESE ITEMS--!

JOKER JEALOUSY? OR...





WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, **BATMAN**? HE STOLE NOTHING--ATTEMPTED NOTHING! AND HE SOLD HIS MERCHANDISE AT GIVE-AWAY PRICES--UNDERCUTTING THE **BATMAN** LINE OF GOODS!

STRANGE...

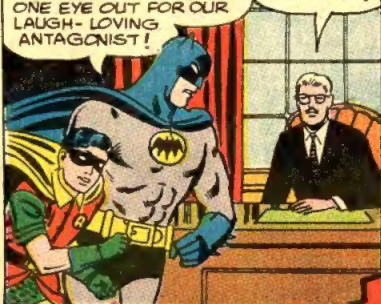
THE **JOKER** NEVER DOES ANYTHING WITHOUT SOME DEEP, UNDERLYING REASON, **COMMISSIONER GORDON**, BUT SELLING **T-SHIRTS**..!?

BEATS ME! BUT WE'D ALL BETTER BE ON OUR TOES!



RIGHT! **ROBIN** AND I WILL KEEP UP OUR REGULAR PATROL IN THE **BAT-MOBILE**--BUT WITH ONE EYE OUT FOR OUR LAUGH-LOVING ANTAGONIST!

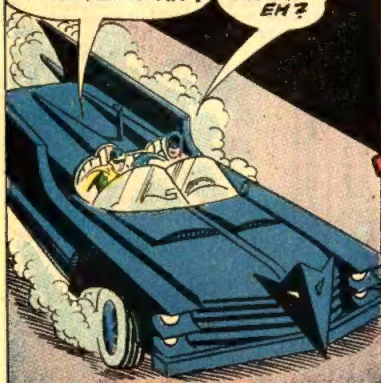
DO THAT, **BATMAN**. AND KEEP IN TOUCH!



EVENING. A HOT SUN HAS SET OVER **GOTHAM CITY** LEAVING A SULTRY NIGHT... SULTRY AND SOMEHOW DANGEROUS...

DO YOU GET A FEELING THAT SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN, **BATMAN**?

I DO, **ROBIN**! I WISH I KNEW WHAT IT--EH?



GREAT SHOOTING STARS! IT'S A-- A **JOKER**-SIGNAL-- A TAKE-OFF ON OUR **BAT-SIGNAL**!!

IT'S EITHER COMING FROM THE **JOKER** HIMSELF--



--OR IT'S BEING SENT TO HIM! IN THE FIRST CASE, IT MAY BE A TRAP! BUT IN ANY CASE, WE'RE GOING TO ANSWER IT, **ROBIN**!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.



# Build your own CHAMBER OF CHILLS piece by pulsating piece!



**DRACULA\*** Thirsty for a kit you can really sink your teeth into? Stake \$1.00 on the Prince of the Fang Gang.



**FRANKENSTEIN\*** Mr. Monster himself, star of stage, scream, TV and graveyards.



**DR. JEKYL AS MR. HYDE\*** He can't seem to make up his minds. The kit shows him "changing" for dinner.



**KING KONG†** Here's one that'll really grab you... King Kong and victim going "The Monkey".



**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA\*** His haunting rendition of "Strangers in the Night" just made the top forty.

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Color them monstrous with the Aurora paints:

Bloody reds! Gruesome greys! Ghoulish greens!

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AS THE  
STARTLING  
FLARE  
LEADS  
THE  
DARING  
DYNAMIC  
DUO TO A DIRECT  
CON-  
FRONTATION  
WITH ITS  
FAR-OUT  
FOE, THE  
CAPRICIOUS  
COMIC  
OF  
CRIME...!

...IN THIS RARE METALS  
FACTORY! THE JOKER  
AND A GANG--!

THEY'VE  
BLOWN  
THAT  
SAFE--!

GREETINGS, BATMAN AND ROBIN! YOU'LL BE  
WONDERING WHY I ADVERTISED THIS CAPER,  
OH? WELL, MAYBE STEALING HAS BECOME  
TOO DULL FOR ME! I NEED OPPOSITION!

THAT'S  
WHERE YOU  
TWO COME  
IN--



--AND WHERE YOU GO OUT! HA! HA!

GO TO IT, BOYS!  
ENJOY YOUR-  
SELVES!

AS THE MUSCULAR MANHUNTER AND HIS  
MIGHTY MITE PROTÉGÉ EXPLODE INTO  
ACTION...

IF THE JOKER  
AND HIS CREW FIND ORDINARY  
CRIME TOO DULL--LET'S TRY  
TO KEEP THEM FROM BEING  
BORED TO DEATH,  
ROBIN!

WE'LL DO  
OUR BEST,  
BAT-  
MAN--!



HOW'S  
THIS  
FOR A  
BELLY  
LAUGH!

UGH  
HH



THINGS LIVELY  
ENOUGH FOR YOU?  
OF COURSE WE  
COULD TRY  
HARDER--!







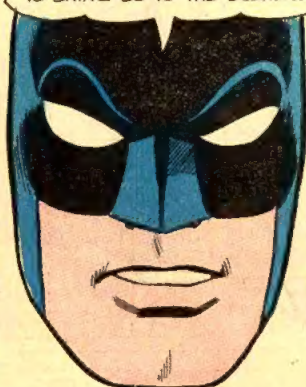
BUT THE SNEAK-ATTACK HAG, IT TURNS OUT, ONLY A TEMPORARY EFFECT! AND SOON...

HE GOT CLEAN AWAY--WITH HIS LOOT!

WHAT GETS ME IS--HOW COME THE JOKER DIDN'T PUT US IN SOME CLEVER TRAP-- LIKE HE USUALLY DOES? HE HAD US HELPLESS---



THERE'S A LOT TO THIS CASE THAT DOESN'T MEET THE EYE, ROBIN! LIKE THE WAY HE KEPT FREEZING IN POSITION DURING THE FIGHT! I CAN'T FIGURE THAT OUT! AND THE JOKER-SIGNAL HE FLASHED TO BRING US TO THE SCENE...



...I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE THE REASON HE GAVE ABOUT CRIME BEING DULL! IT DOESN'T RING TRUE!

THAN WHAT'S HE UP TO?

I WISH I KNEW!



NEXT DAY IN THE HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD DICK GRAYSON...

BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR-- BUT I WOULDN'T BE SO DISCOURAGED IF I WERE YOU! AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE JOKER MANY TIMES BEFORE--AND IF I MAY SAY SO, YOU TWO HAVE ALWAYS EMERGED TRIUMPHANT!

THANKS FOR THE BOOST, ALFRED! ACTUALLY...



...WE DO HAVE ONE CLUE! WHILE YOU WERE AT SCHOOL THIS MORNING, DICK, I LOCATED THE MANUFACTURER WHO MADE THOSE JOKER MERCHANDISE ITEMS! HE SAID HE GOT THE ORDER FROM A MR. JAY--AND IT WAS A BIG ORDER!

JAY? THAT COULD BE-- LIKE "J"-- AND STAND FOR JOKER!

JUST WHAT I THOUGHT! BUT THE INFORMATION MEANS THAT THE JOKER ITEMS--IN SUCH QUANTITY-- MUST BE ON SALE AT SOME REGULAR OUTLET--SOME STORE!

THE QUESTION IS WHERE IS THE STORE? MY CALCULATED GUESS IS-- IN THE UNDERWORLD!

SOUNDS LIKE A COOL GUESS TO ME, BRUCE! WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?





USING POLICE FILES, THE **DYNAMIC DUO** MAKES CONTACT WITH AN INFORMER, A SEEDY TIPSTER WHO WORKS WITH THE LAW...

IT'S THE **JOKER** WE'RE AFTER, **HARRY**! WHAT'S HE UP TO? HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

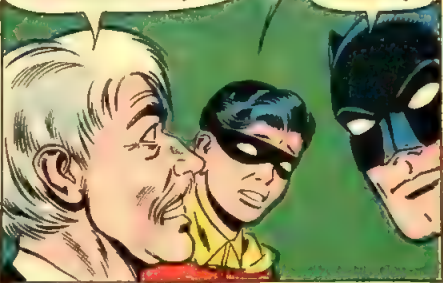
I CAN'T TELL YOU MUCH, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**! ALL I KNOW IS...



...THAT TWICE LAST WEEK I DID SEE THE **JOKER** AND HIS GANG ENTER A FLEA BAG--THE **OLD GOTHAM HOTEL**--AND TAKE THE ELEVATOR DOWN!

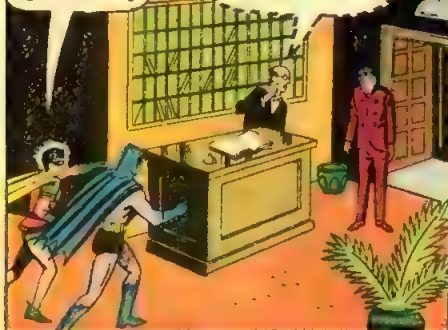
**DOWN?!**

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR US! THANKS, **HARRY**!



THERE'S THE ELEVATOR, **BATMAN**!

**BATMAN AND ROBIN! SPREAD THE WORD--!**

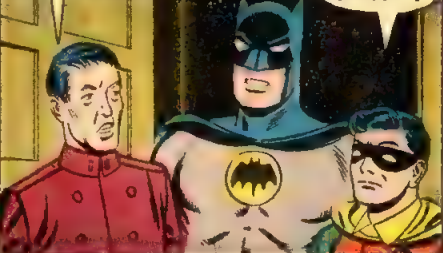


UH--WHAT FLOOR?

NO FLOOR, **CHARLEY**! TAKE US **DOWN**!

**DOWN?! THERE'S NOTHING BUT THE BASEMENT--!**

YOU HEARD THE MAN, **CHARLEY--DOWN!**



AND SOON, AS THE RESOLUTE MAN-HUNTERS, PRESSING THROUGH THE DINGY CORRIDORS OF THE HOTEL BASEMENT, FINALLY OPEN ONE DOOR WHERE A SIGHT MAKES THEM BLINK...

**WOW! A JOKER STORE! HE'S GOT A WHOLE DEPARTMENT STORE DOWN HERE, **BATMAN**--HANDLING NOTHING BUT HIS OWN MERCHANDISE!**

HIS TRADEMARK IS ON ALL THE ITEMS--EVEN TV SETS!

COME ON, **ROBIN**! WE'LL PUT THAT LARCENOUS LOON **OUT OF BUSINESS** RIGHT NOW--!



**JOKER SWEATSHIRTS \$5 CASH OR \$100 COUNTERFEIT MONEY!**



THEN...THE BATMAN TRADEMARK--AN EXPLOSIVE ENTRANCE WITH ROBIN--!

SURE--UH!  
EXCUSE ME,  
HEISTER! HERE  
COME TWO CUSTOMERS  
I'VE GOT TO ATTEND  
TO PERSONALLY!

I'LL TAKE A DOZEN T-SHIRTS! OKAY  
IF I PAY YOU WITH THIS FRESH--  
STOLEN JOOLERY, JOKER?

CHEEZIT!  
BATMAN  
AND  
ROBIN!

YOUR STUNTS WON'T  
HELP YOU THIS TIME,  
JOKER! I'M READY  
FOR ANYTHING YOU  
TRY--

Or--CLEVER OF YOU  
TO HAVE FOUND  
YOUR WAY DOWN  
HERE, BATMAN--

--BUT I'VE GOT TO FAULT YOU!  
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THAT I'M  
WEARING JET-PROPELLED  
JOKER SKATES! THEY'RE  
ON SPECIAL THIS WEEK  
HERE IN MY STORE--  
HAAAAHA!

MISSED--

BUT THE AROUSED CRIME-FIGHTER  
IS NOT TO BE THWARTED...

I'VE GOT A SPECIAL TOO,  
JOKER-- MY FLYING  
TACKLE! GUARANTEED  
TO MAKE YOU LOSE YOUR  
SENSE OF HUMOR--

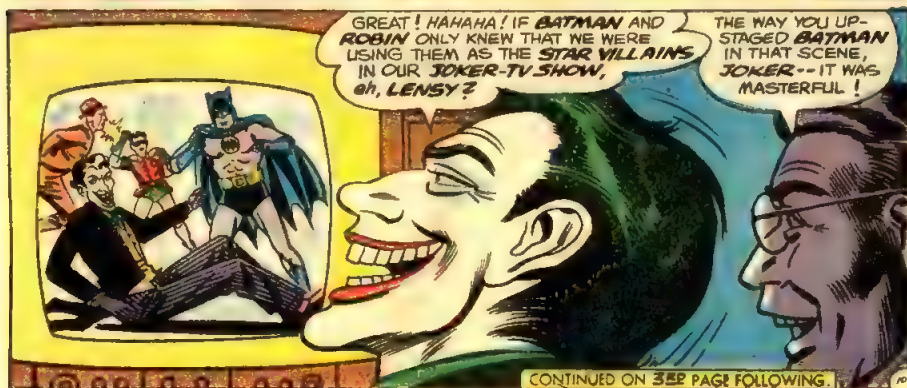
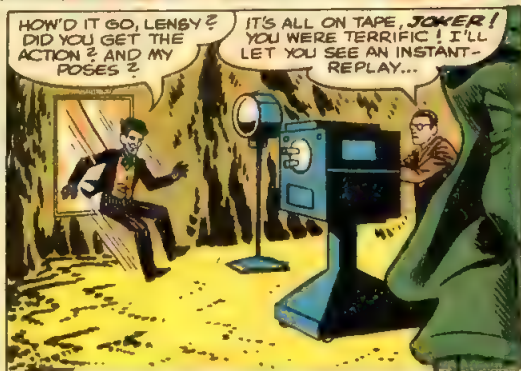
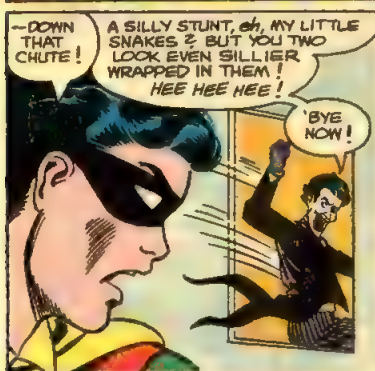
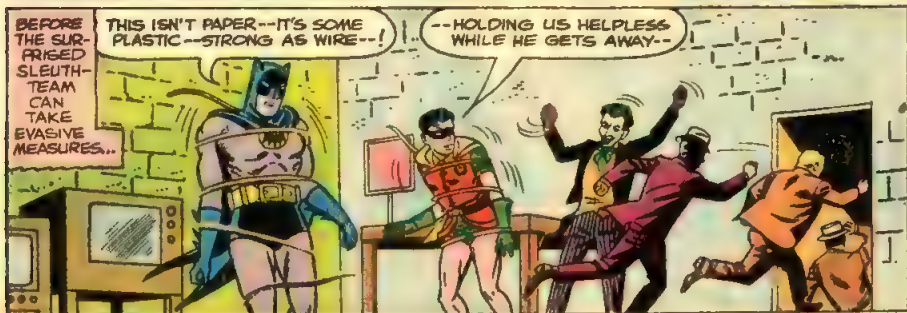
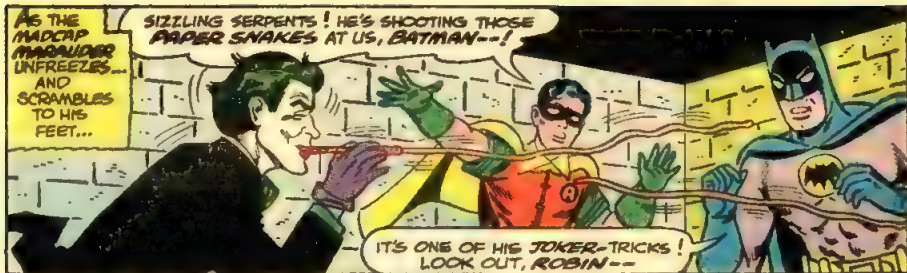
--AND TO STOP YOUR  
IDiotic CACKLING  
FOR ONCE!

HAHA NOT BAD,  
BATMAN!  
NOT BAD AT  
ALL!

WHAT'S HE DOING--  
ROOTING ME ON?

FREEZING AGAIN--  
WITH THAT BIG  
GRIN ON HIS FACE--?  
I DON'T GET IT--!







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**A**



**B**



**C**



**C**

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Dear Editor:

The March *Detective Comics* was wonderful! To start off with, I'm glad you were able to re-use Eivold Ekdal's "Inescapable Doom Trap" from so many issues ago. This time it was up-dated with a new gimmick and a different motivation.

I'm going to come right out with it and say that Gardner Fox was the author of "The Dynamic Duo's Double-Deathtrap" (as contrasted to John Broome who wrote the original Eivold Ekdal yarn) because of the neat change of plot within the story and because of a typical habit that Gardner Fox has of tying in an insignificant item at the beginning of the tale and then using it later on as the gimmick which the hero uses to overcome the villain. In this case, it was the substitution of letters for numbers on the telephone dial which eventually tipped the *Dynamic Duo* off to the insidious trap within a trap.

What I am most happy about though, besides the monumental artwork of Infantino and Greene, was the sensibility of the dialogue. There were no "Holy" gags by Robin (would you believe one on page 5?), and the suspense and action that the dialogue presented, along with the fitting deaths of Ekdal and Melikov—made for a truly unforgettable story.

—Dave Truesdale, Morton, Ill.

(It was a toss-up whether to kick off this issue's HOT-LINE with Dave Truesdale's letter or one from "Castro" Mike Friedrich. On the principle that we prefer to put our best foot forward with a favorable review—plus a correct author identification—as contrasted to Mike's double-negative story-writer report, we made the choice accordingly.

—Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

*Detective* 361 had an interesting cover—too bad writer John Broome (excessive dialogue gives him away, plus a strictly non-Foxy plot) couldn't dream up a situation in a story to include. You finally get a little involved in the modern world with a Communist antagonist but mess it up terribly with stereotypes, clichés, and improbable situations. Try reading "The Spy Who Came In From The Cold" for a more real set of East-West-Berlin spies. Action was very good, though: art terrific, which is always true when Sid Greene inks a *Batman* story.

The mnemonic telephone-number device was poor. I personally find the numbers a lot easier to remember than the old letters. The author must have been a charter member of the Anti-Digit Dialing League.

—Mike Friedrich, Castro Valley, Cal.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Remember a year or so ago when Gardner Fox

wrote a story for the *Justice League of America* with racial prejudice (among other human sins) and we readers (present writer included) flooded your desk with words of praise? Well, about five months later, every comic company this side of Starz came out with stories condemning segregation and prejudice. Some of these were quite good, but most of them screamed out: "Look! This is a story about racial discrimination. It is a great masterpiece!"—and otherwise rammed the story down the throats of the pseudo-intellectual comic readers.

Well, unlike his *JLA* masterpiece, Gardner Fox (and I'm going to feel pretty foolish if he didn't write "Double-Deathtrap") didn't splash it full of quotes and morals... yet still accomplished the same thing! He filled it full of "no honor among thieves" and "escaping communist oppression" types of feelings. While both of these morals have been used before, Gardner Fox brought them into light. Of course, Carmine Infantino's criminal types didn't hurt, either.

—Mark Evanier, Los Angeles, Cal.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

I am a very good DC fan. I have over 500 comic magazines. I read them all and still keep up my lessons. (I'm not bragging or anything but I'm an A-Plus student.) Reading your comics has taught many new things. I hadn't noticed this until recently, but by reading your mags I have improved myself in thinking out things. An example of this in your recent stories is when I've come up with the same solutions that *Batman* has!

While I'm at it I would also like to commend you on issue 361. "The Dynamic Duo's Double-Death-trap" was certainly a dilly, as indeed most of your stories are. What never stops to amaze me is the way you dream up the perfect background leading up to a story. I liked the entire story, although I did take exception to one point you made. On page 7, panel 3, you state that *Batman* is having the fight of his life against his burly foe. Personally, I don't see how this is possible when *Batman* has fought such foes as *Blockbuster*, *Joker*, *Penguin*, *Luthor* and many more of like stature and menace.

The *Elongated Man* story—"Curious Case of the Circus Crook"—was at its usual high standards—yet I would like to see the *Stretchable Sleuth* fight some real super crooks. I think he has enough experience and skill to handle them.

—Jimmy Broome, McBean, Ga.

\*\*\*\*\*

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.



HERE'S YOUR LATEST VIEWER-RATING **JOKER**: 88% OF ALL CRIMINALS WITH OUR SPECIAL TV SETS WERE WATCHING THAT BATTLE WITH **BATMAN** IN THE RARE METALS FACTORY!

WE'LL GO EVEN HIGHER WITH THE **JOKER SPEC-TACULAR** WE PROMISED THEM--COMING UP IN JUST A FEW MINUTES!



BY MY CALCULATIONS, OUR TWO SUPER SLEUTHS WILL WORK THEMSELVES FREE--AND FOLLOW US DOWN HERE--IN JUST ABOUT THIRTY MORE SECONDS!



EVERYTHING IS READY HERE IN THE **JOKER HOUSE, JOKER!**

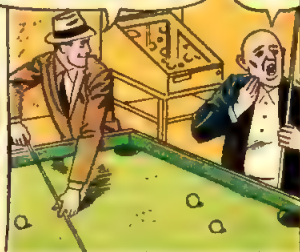
GREAT! SEND OUT THE CUSTOMER ALERT SIGNAL!

AT ONCE IN UNDERWORLD HAUNTS ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

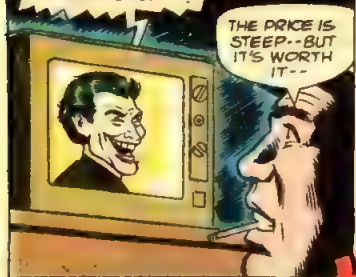
TWO-BALL IN THE CORNER--ON 5 THE BUZZER--!!

THAT MEANS ANOTHER EPISODE IN THE **JOKER-TV** SHOW COMING ON--!

TURN ON THE SET!

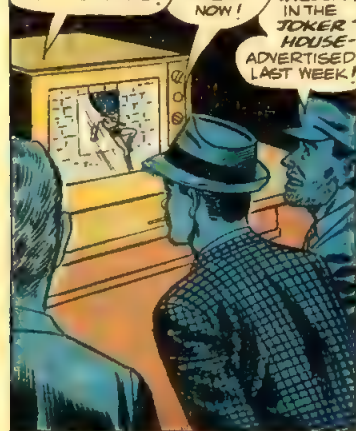


A WORD BEFORE THE LIVE ACTION, FRIENDS... REMEMBER, THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION--\$100 A MONTH FROM EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU! SO DON'T FAIL TO MAIL IN YOUR CASH--!



THE PRICE IS STEEP--BUT IT'S WORTH IT--

--TO SEE **BATMAN** TANGLE WITH THE **JOKER** AS IT HAPPENS!



THERE'S **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** NOW!

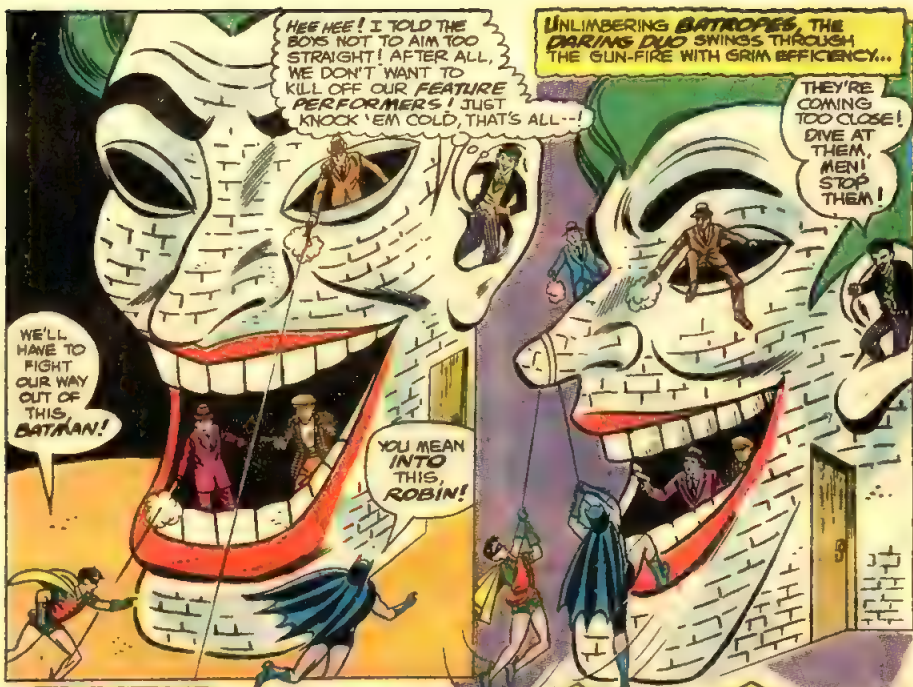
THIS IS THE **SPEC-TACULAR** IN THE **JOKER HOUSE**--ADVERTISED LAST WEEK!

THAT HUGE HEAD--? THIS MUST BE THE **JOKER'S HEAD-QUARTERS, BATMAN--!**



WE'VE LANDED IN A TRAP ALL RIGHT, **ROBIN--!** BUT IT'S A RISK WE HAD TO TAKE!





HEE HEE! I TOLD THE BOYS NOT TO AIM TOO STRAIGHT! AFTER ALL, WE DON'T WANT TO KILL OFF OUR FEATURE PERFORMERS! JUST KNOCK 'EM COLD, THAT'S ALL--!

UNLIMBERING BATROFES, THE DARING DUO SWINGS THROUGH THE GUN-FIRE WITH GRIM EFFICIENCY...

THEY'RE COMING TOO CLOSE! DIVE AT THEM, MEN! STOP THEM!

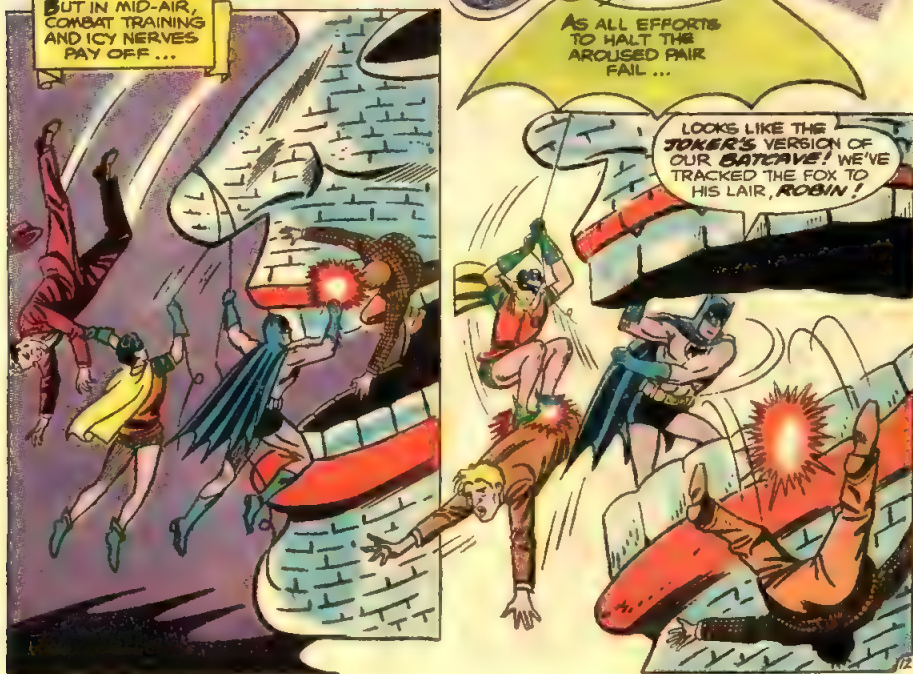
WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF THIS, BATMAN!

YOU MEAN INTO THIS, ROBIN!

AS ALL EFFORTS TO HALT THE AROUSED PAIR FAIL ...

LOOKS LIKE THE JOKER'S VERSION OF OUR BATCAVE! WE'VE TRACKED THE FOX TO HIS LAIR, ROBIN!

BUT IN MID-AIR, COMBAT TRAINING AND ICY NERVES PAY OFF ...

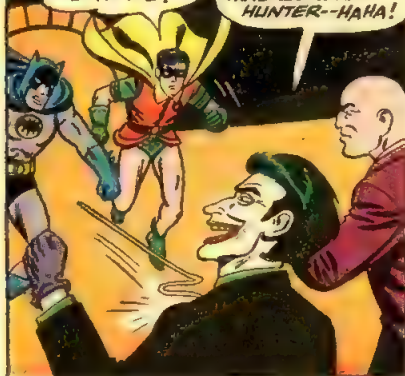




THEN, IN THE INNER SANCTUARY OF THE COMIC OF CRIME...

WATCH IT, BATMAN! THE JOKER'S TIE STRINGS SHOOTING OUT AT YOU!

TAKE CARE OF THE LITTLE ONE, MOOCH! I'LL HANDLE THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER--HAHA!



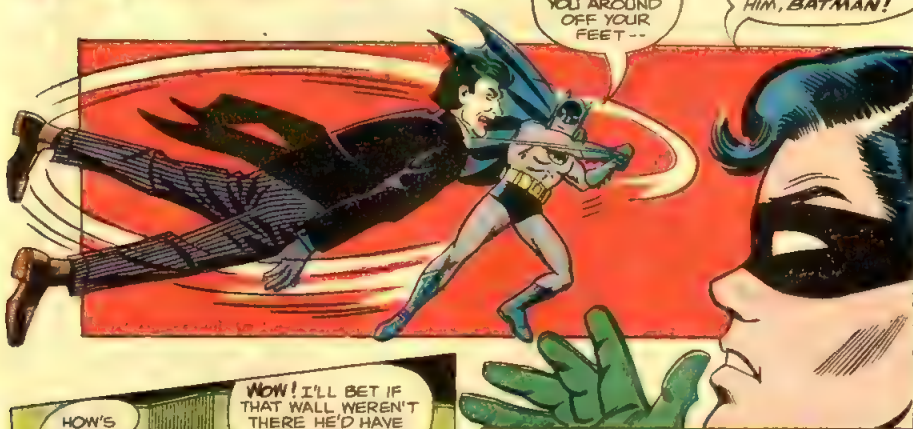
BUT MOOCH MEETS HIS MATCH IN THE BOY WONDER AS ROBIN'S MENTOR TOO ACTS SWIFTLY...

YOUR TRICK IS BACKFIRING ON YOU, JOKER-- YOU'RE JUST GIVING ME SOMETHING TO GRAB YOU BY--



THAT'S WHAT I CALL SWINGING ACTION! HEAVE HIM, BATMAN!

--AND SWING YOU AROUND OFF YOUR FEET--



HOW'S THAT ROBIN?

WOW! I'LL BET IF THAT WALL WEREN'T THERE HE'D HAVE TRAVELED ON ANOTHER TWENTY FEET!

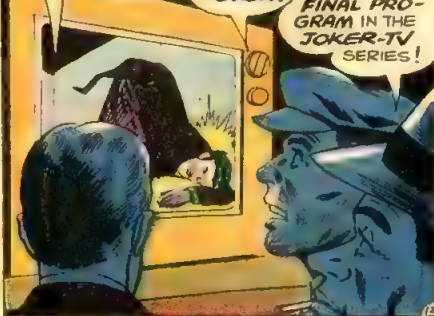
AND IN UNDERWORLD HANGOUTS...

WHAT GIVES?

WE'VE BEEN GYPPED!

BATMAN WON OUT OVER THE JOKER!


SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE LOOKING AT THE FINAL PROGRAM IN THE JOKER-TV SERIES!



LATER, WITH THE **CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME** IN JAIL, ALONG WITH HIS GANG, THE TRUTH EMERGES...

THE **JOKER'S** UNDERWORLD **PAY** TELEVISION VENTURE WAS HIGHLY PROFITABLE FOR HIM, **ROBIN!** BUT IN HIS FOOLHARDY WAY HE TEMPTED THE FATES BY LURING **US** INTO THE SCENES TO MAKE THEM MORE EXCITING --!

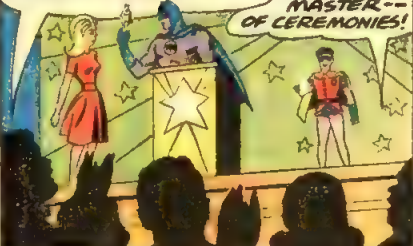
THAT WAS A MISTAKE **HE'S** GOT TO **PAY** FOR NOW, **BATMAN!**



AND WHEN THE **EMMY** AWARDS FOR **REAL** TELEVISION ARE GIVEN OUT THE FOLLOWING WEEK...

IT WAS A GREAT IDEA TO GET **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TO HAND OUT THE **EMMY** AWARDS THIS YEAR!

THEY'RE THE IDEAL **MASTER--AND YOUNG MASTER--** OF CEREMONIES!



ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER CEREMONY, NOT QUITE SO EXUBERANT...

--AND THE FIRST **JOKER** AWARD FOR **UNDERWORLD TELEVISION** HAS BEEN WON BY THE **JOKER** HIMSELF!


ER--LET'S HOPE HE GETS OUT OF JAIL IN SIX OR SEVEN YEARS--TO CLAIM IT!

LET'S HOPE SO, **MUGS!**




THE END

**UP--UP--UP--**



SPRINGS THE **ATOM--**


TO BATTLE A BAND OF BARBARIAN WARRIORS.




**ATOM**

MOSSAL! CAN TURN INTO THE WORLD'S VALUET SUPER HERO!

**DOWN--DOWN--DOWN--**



SHRINKS THE **ATOM--**

IN THE MOST FURIOUS FIGHT OF HIS **DC-CHECKERED** CAREER!

ON SALE JUNE 1st

**"The UP and DOWN DOOMS of the ATOM!"**



STORY BY  
GARDNER FOX

# The ELONGATED Man

ART BY  
SID GREENE

A "FUNNY" THING HAPPENED TO  
THE ELONGATED MAN ON THE  
WAY TO STOP A CRIME--HE  
HELPED THE CROOKS GET  
AWAY!

HE FOUND EVERY STRETCHING  
MOVE HE MADE--BACKFIRING  
ON HIM!

ONLY BY A FANTASTIC STRETCH  
OF HIS IMAGINATION COULD  
THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE  
HOPE TO BRING THINGS BACK TO  
NORMAL AGAIN--IN THE CASE OF...

## THE CROOKS WHO CAPTURED THEMSELVES!

THANKS FOR THE RAP  
ON THE KNEE, PAL!  
YOU'VE HELPED ME KNOCK  
OUT YOUR PARTNER-IN-CRIME!



ON A BALMY SUMMER EVENING IN **POWER CITY**,  
RALPH DISBY LEAVES A LOCAL MOVIE HOUSE...

TOO BAD SUE COULDN'T SEE  
THAT SHOW WITH ME--BUT  
SHE'S AT A "SHOWER" FOR  
A LOCAL GIRL FRIEND AND--

**GUNSHOTS!**

**BLAM!**  
**BLAM!**

SO EAGER IS HE TO DOFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS  
AND PLUNGE INTO ACTION AS THE **ELONGATED**  
**MAN** THAT...

**RIPPED THE BUTTON  
RIGHT OFF MY JACKET!**

**SUE CAN SEW IT  
BACK ON LATER!  
RIGHT NOW I  
HEAR THE CALL  
TO--ELONGATED--  
ARMS!**

**BLAM!**  
**BLAM!**

**POP!**

WITH YARD-  
LONG STRIDES  
HE IS SOON  
AROUND  
THE  
CORNER  
WHERE...

**BAM!**

WHY, I WAS  
BROWSING  
AROUND IN THAT  
**COIN STORE** THIS MORNING!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN  
ROBBED BY THOSE  
TWO GUYS MAKING  
THEIR GETAWAY!

HERE COMES THE  
**ELONGATED MAN!**  
THOSE COIN-THIEVES  
WON'T GET AWAY  
NOW!

WE'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR  
CROOK-CATCHING  
REPUTATION--

THEN I BETTER  
LIVE UP TO IT!

I'LL GRAB THOSE CROOKS WITH ONE  
ARM--AND SNATCH THE IGNITION KEY  
WITH THE OTHER! THEY WON'T  
GET AWAY WITH **THIS JOB!**

OH-OH! THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE--  
AND YOU, READER--ARE IN  
FOR A STARTLING SURPRISE!  
WATCH WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!



INSTEAD OF THE OUTSTRETCHED ARMS OF THE ELONGATED MAN GRASPING THE THIEVES, THEY SNAP BACK AND...

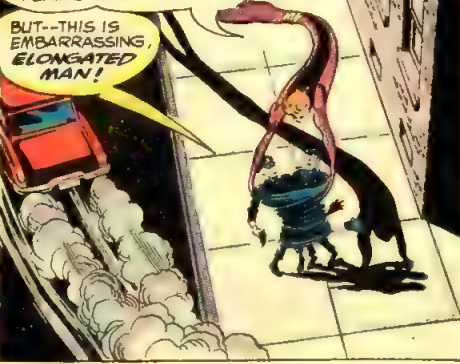


AS THE GETAWAY CAR STREAKS OFF INTO THE NIGHT...

I--I CAN'T LET GO! MY ARMS WON'T OBEY MY THOUGHTS!

DO YOUR DUTY, OFFICERS! ARREST ME FOR INTERFERING WITH THE LAW--

BUT--THIS IS EMBARRASSING, ELONGATED MAN!



I INSIST! IT'S FOR MY OWN GOOD, I ASSURE YOU!



BUT--BEFORE THE POLICE OFFICER CAN MAKE HIS ARREST...

I--I'M FLEEING FROM THE LAW!

I REALLY WANTED THEM TO ARREST ME, BUT WHEN I TRIED TO UN-STRETCH MYSELF TOWARD THEM, MY BODY DID JUST THE OPPOSITE-- ELONGATED MYSELF AWAY FROM THEM!



STILL IN THE STRANGE GRIP OF HIS REBELLIOUS BODY, THE DUCTILE DETECTIVE TAKES REFUGE IN A NEARBY PARK...

WHAT A MESS! I'VE BECOME A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE!

AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT--TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME!



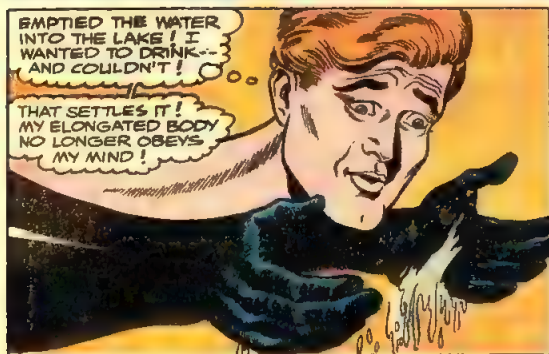
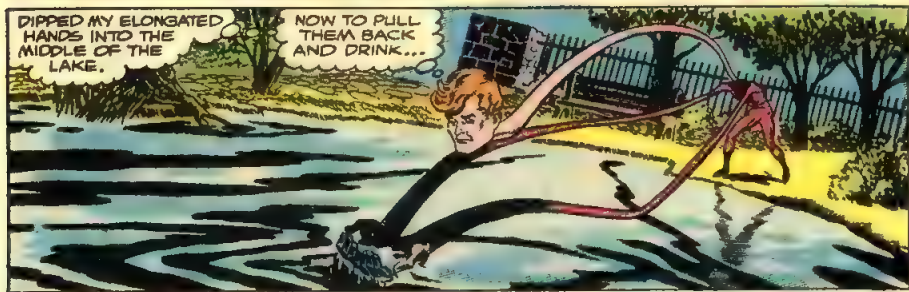
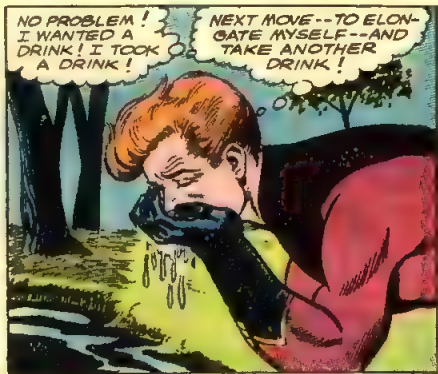
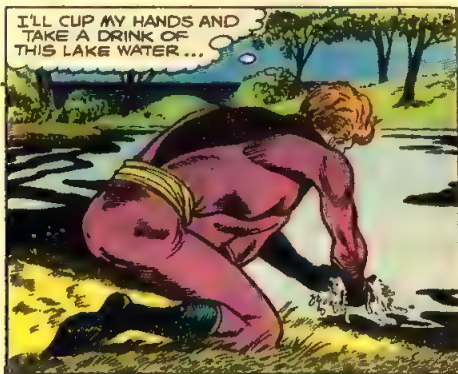
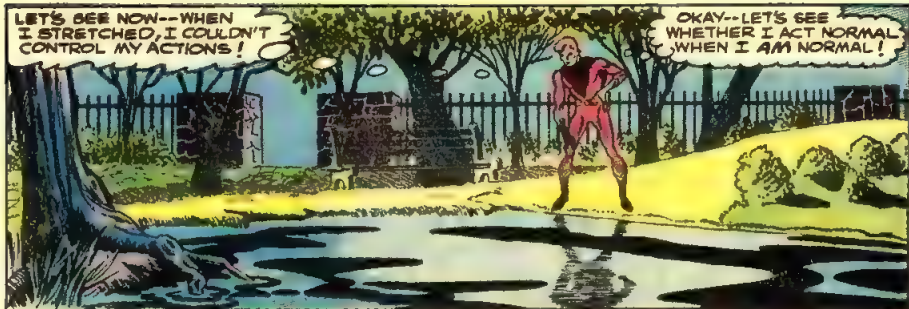
# Another **STAR** **COLLECTION** OF **BATMAN** and **ROBIN'S** **BIZARRE ACTION ROLES**

in the  
**LATEST**  
**80 pg.**  
**GIANT**  
**BATMAN**

**ON**  
**SALE**  
*Everywhere*  
**MAY**  
**9<sup>TH</sup>**







AN HOUR LATER, IN A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD OF POWER CITY...

ON MY WAY HERE I PURCHASED SOMETHING THAT WILL COME IN HANDY WHEN I MEET UP WITH THOSE CROOKS!

BEING A COIN COLLECTOR MYSELF, I KNOW THAT MARK MODRED--ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST COIN DEALERS--LIVES HERE! I'M HOPING HE CAN TELL ME OF SOME UNSCRUPULOUS COIN COLLECTOR WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE RARE COINS THE CROOKS STEAL...

KLANK!  
KLANK!

ELONGATED MAN!  
WHAT A SURPRISE!  
COME IN! WHAT  
CAN I DO FOR  
YOU?

SORRY  
TO  
BOTHER  
YOU,  
MR. MODRED--  
BUT I NEED  
YOUR HELP...

YOU AREN'T BOTHERING ME, I ASSURE YOU! SEE--I'M ALL ALONE! I WAS JUST GOING OVER SOME OF MY RARE COINS. NOW HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

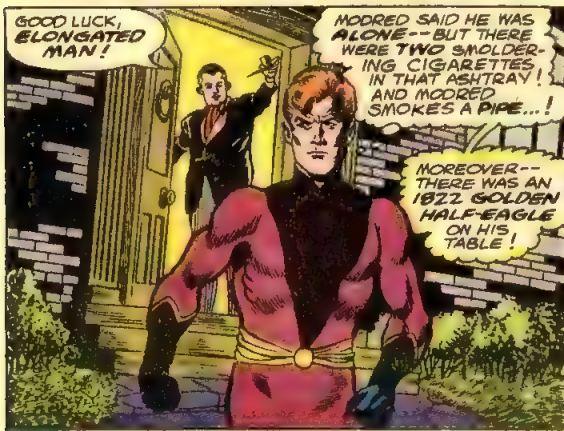
THE COIN BOX WAS ROBBED TONIGHT! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU KNOW ANY DEALER WHO'D HANDLE SUCH STOLEN COINS?



I'M A RELIABLE BUSINESS MAN! SORRY! I DON'T KNOW ANYONE IN THAT LINE...

WELL, THANKS, ANYHOW!

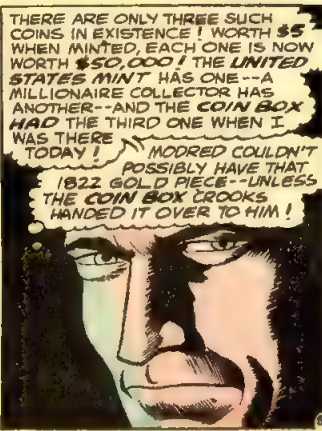
MODRED HELPED OUT MORE THAN HE REALIZES!



GOOD LUCK, ELONGATED MAN!

MODRED SAID HE WAS ALONE--BUT THERE WERE TWO SMOLDERING CIGARETTES IN THAT ASHTRAY! AND MODRED SMOKES A PIPE...!

MOREOVER--THERE WAS AN 1822 GOLDEN HALF-EAGLE ON HIS TABLE!



THERE ARE ONLY THREE SUCH COINS IN EXISTENCE! WORTH \$5 WHEN MINTED, EACH ONE IS NOW WORTH \$50,000! THE UNITED STATES MINT HAS ONE--A MILLIONAIRE COLLECTOR HAS ANOTHER--AND THE COIN BOX HAD THE THIRD ONE WHEN I WAS THERE TODAY!

MODRED COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE THAT 1822 GOLD PIECE--UNLESS THE COIN BOX CROOKS HANDED IT OVER TO HIM!



I'LL SLIP IN THE BACK WAY AND CATCH MODRED WITH THE TWO CROOKS!

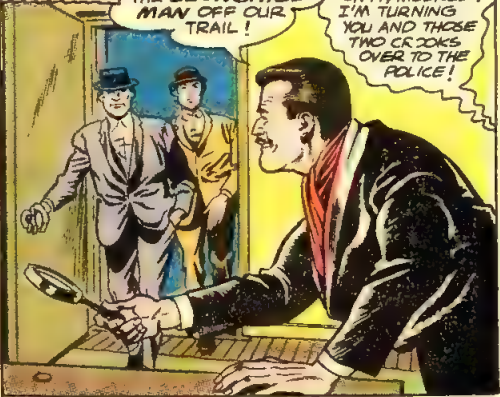
ORDINARILY, IT'D BE A SNAP TO CAPTURE THEM WITH MY ELONGATED POWERS! BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO FIGHT THEM A UNIQUE WAY--BY GETTING THOSE CROOKS TO CAPTURE THEMSELVES!



MOMENTS LATER...

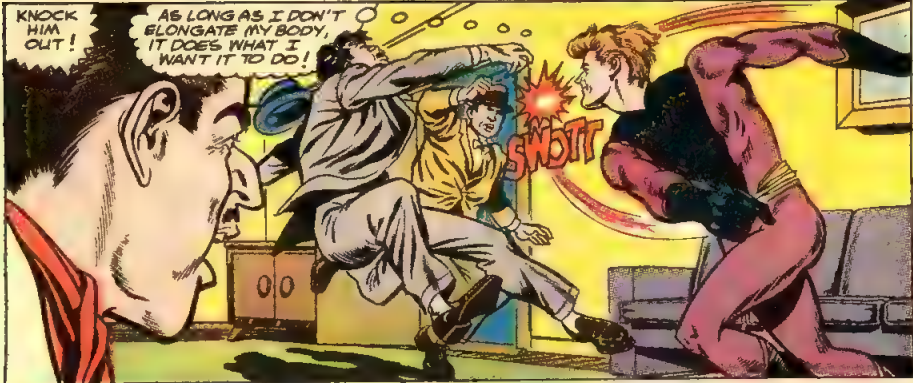
OKAY--YOU CAN COME OUT NOW! I STEERED THE **ELONGATED MAN** OFF OUR TRAIL!

AND I STEERED MYSELF BACK ON IT, MODRED! I'M TURNING YOU AND THOSE TWO CROOKS OVER TO THE POLICE!



KNOCK HIM OUT!

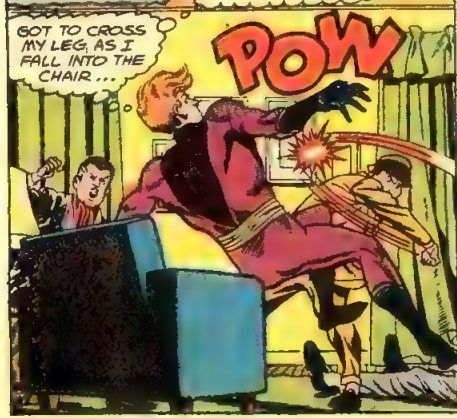
AS LONG AS I DON'T ELONGATE MY BODY, IT DOES WHAT I WANT IT TO DO!



IN TURN, HE IS SOCKED BACKWARD TOWARD A CHAIR...

A TEMPORARY SET-BACK-- WHICH GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO PULL OFF THE FIRST OF MY PLANNED TRICKS--

GOT TO CROSS MY LEG AS I FALL INTO THE CHAIR...



WHEN STRUCK BY A BLOW OR OTHER STIMULUS, CERTAIN PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY ACT IN A COMPLETELY REFLEX WAY--OVER WHICH THE PERSON HAS NO CONTROL!



AS THE FIST FLAITS INTO THE **STRETCHABLE SLEUTH**--JUST BELOW HIS UPRaised KNEE...

DOCTORS TEST PATIENTS' REFLEXES BY TAPPING THEM JUST UNDER THE KNEE! IF NORMAL, THE LEG AND FOOT SHOOT UPWARD--JUST AS MINE IS STARTING TO DO!

**THWUNK!**

MY **ELONGATED LEG'S** RIGHT ON TARGET--CAUGHT THAT CROOK RIGHT UNDER THE CHIN!

A CASE OF A **REFLEX ACTION** WORKING--WHERE A **VOLUNTARY ONE** WOULDN'T!

**THWAAPP**

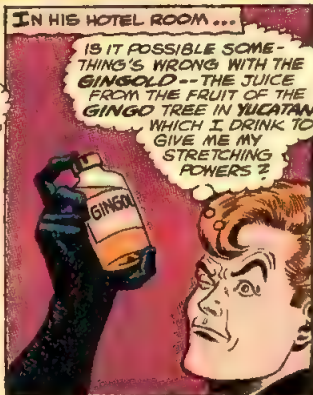
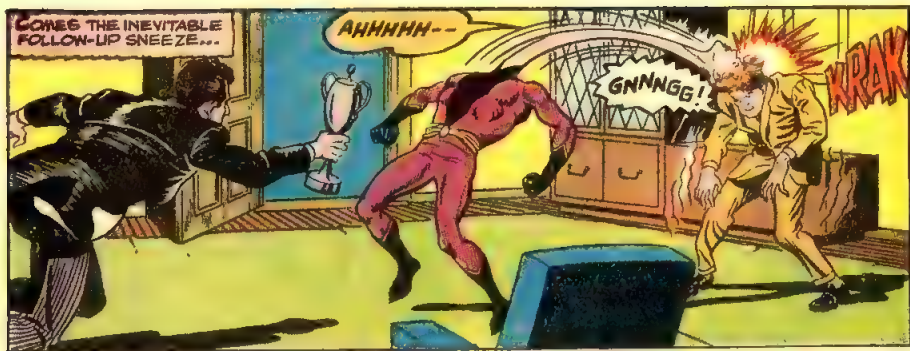
**RETRACTING** BACK TO HIS NORMAL SIZE AND SHAPE, HE FIGHTS ON HIS OWN AGAIN...

HOW TO DIG OUT OF MY POCKET THE SPECIAL MATERIAL I BOUGHT...

**PEPPER!**  
**AHHH--**  
SNEEZING IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF REFLEX ACTION OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO CONTROL!

--CHOOO!  
THAT'LL BRUSH MOORED BACK FOR A MOMENT...  
HEY--WHAT--?!





WHEN SUE RETURNS HOME ...AND IS TOLD OF THE EVENING'S HAPPENINGS...

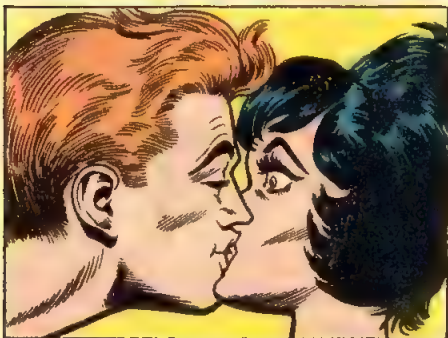
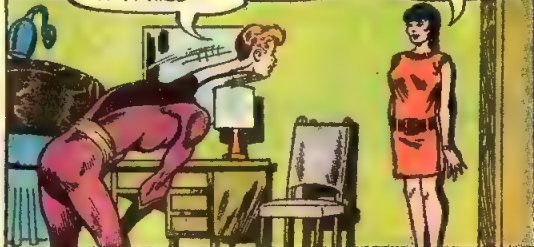
THE EFFECT OF THE SPOILED **SINGOLD** WILL WEAR OFF IN TIME--IT MIGHT EVEN BE GONE NOW! DO YOU MIND IF I TEST IT, SUE? JUST STAND BACK AGAINST THAT WALL--

WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN MIND?



I WANT TO KISS YOU! IF THE EFFECT HASN'T WORN OFF, I'LL DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT--THE OPPOSITE OF A KISS--

AND WHAT'S THE "OPPOSITE" OF A KISS?



GOOD! I'M BACK TO NORMAL!

HONEY, YOU'RE BACK TO **SUPER-NORMAL**! THAT WAS **SOME** KISS!



THE SHOUTS HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD..



**HATE BATMAN!**  
**KILL BATMAN!**

**The BLOCKBUSTER--**  
THE FURY-FILLED  
FOE THAT IS  
**"TOO TOUGH  
for BATMAN--"**  
GOES ON THE  
RAMPAGE AGAIN!

ON SALE  
JUNE 6th



**FASTER THAN THE GOLD RUSH!**

**GUSHIER THAN STRIKING OIL!**

**MORE DESPERATE THAN THE HOPE DIAMOND!**

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY OF MAKING A QUICK BUCK? YOU BET YOUR BOOTIES--

**MARRY IT!**

THAT'S WHAT SILVER SHANNON DECIDES WHEN SHE HOOKS RICHARD PIDDYKETE, SON OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

DON'T MISS THE **MANIAKS** SHOWCASE.

**THE MANIAKS**

SHOWCASE #12

THEY'RE ROCKIN'! THEY'RE KRAKIN'! THEY'RE BAKIN'!

WE GOT NOTHING AGAINST THAT BILLIONAIRE YOU'RE MARRYIN' CHICK.

...AND IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY SILVER LUV.

BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE SETTLED FOR A SMALLER ENGAGEMENT RING?

IT'S REAL LOVE WHEN SILVER (THE GO-GO GIRL WITH THE GO-GO HAIR) GETS ENGAGED! TO A RICH PLAYBOY! AND THIS ADVENTURE IS THE TOP OF THE POP!

ON SALE MAY 23 RD

**BE MY GUEST**

AT AMERICA'S GREATEST AMUSEMENT PARK

**PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.**

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE

LOOK FOR THIS COUPON IN ALL JUNE THROUGH OCTOBER ISSUES

ADMIT ONE (1) to **PALISADES** AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAYS (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS) Until 7 P.M.

**FREE** ADMISSION CIRCUS ACTS PARKING

WORTH **85¢**

~ FREE RIDE ~ **BATMAN** SLIDE

~ FREE RIDE ~ **CRAZY CRYSTALS**

# BATMAN'S HOT-LINE — EXTRA

Dear Editor:

Did you ever stop to think what *Batman* would be like if her were handled by another group, rather than DC? Well, I will tell you. He would most likely be a teenager, and *Robin* would be kicked out to make the *Caped Crusader's* plight more lonely. Aunt Harriet would be ill most of the time, making Bruce feel guilty whenever he went out to apprehend a criminal. Alfred would be made into a bumbling, always confused pet of a fellow, hanging around out of Bruce's good will.

*Batman* would be given powers—like levitation and "bat-sense", and battle impossible villains out of Ray Bradbury's nightmares through Frankenstein's laboratory—and get his knuckles almost broken every issue. He would be made a poor boy, just able to get by living (with nobody to know how he can finance his career as a crime-fighter or stay out of school long enough to be effective).

Police Commissioner Gordon would hate his guts and always try to slap a charge on him . . . out of envy because he always seems to outdo the Gotham Police Force (didn't anyone ever explain that it's *Batman's* mag—not the Force's?). *Batman* would be centering his fight on crime in the very same city all the other heroes in his comics company do, leaving the others go. A large part of his mag would be given over to his personal problems and Aunt Harriet's catalogue of ills, sometimes crowding him completely out.

*Batman* would never have time to be a detective since he must, at every appearance as the *Masked Manhunter*, put on a slam-bang, wall-crawling, bullet-jumping, razzle-dazzle of a display of fisticuffs while trading old jokes and the latest "hep-talk" with his opponent. The stories would spill over from issue to issue within this confusion. He would have no sufficiently mature sense of right and wrong, but would just hit things by luck—becoming someone to pity rather than to identify with as an ideal.

The blurbs would be full of braggadocio for the hero and his company, the editors would write in coyly slanged "buddy-buddy" type language, and constantly remind the reader how great their mags are and how *ecchy* all the others are. It would be more like a mag featuring the teen scene rather than a detective comic.

I'm thankful that Bob Kane's original no-fooling around concept and sense of what makes mystery and detective stories has not been too badly tampered with (with a few slips and improvements—not even DC and/or Kane are perfect) by National Periodicals as it may have been in (*shudder*) other's hands. Thanks for usually consistent good magazines.

—Stephen Harrell, Kansas City, Mo.

(That *Batman*—in the hands of others—could ever meet the horrendous fate envisioned by you—would be . . . incredible! But if the worse did come to pass, it would indeed be a . . . marvel!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

Judy Axelrod's letter in the *Hot-Line—Extra* for March merits some consideration by all concerned. Surely the *Batman* with his plethora of *Bat-mutations* (a la *Bat-Girl*—not to be confused with

Comm. Gordon's daughter, *Bat-Dog*, *Bat-Mite*, etc.) was the "sickest" *Batman* we've ever seen. But, as for the *Batman* that preceded him—the one who figured out "clever" mysteries, whose world was one of gangsters, petty thieves, murderers, and hoods, and who relied not on gadgets but on brain and brawn—ah! that is, indeed, a memorable character!

However, I can't agree with Miss Axelrod's criticisms of the present-day *Batman*. If anything, this new one aims at getting back to that well-remembered counterpart of days passed. In doing so, some of the stories are every bit as good as the classics of the older days, and are destined to become classics themselves: "Death Knocks Three Times" or that beautiful job, "Batman Unmasks Bruce Wayne," are examples.

Granted, the new *Batman* has been considerably updated, but—as the well-worn phrase goes—this is only natural. Whether or not one likes what has been done depends, of course, on one's own tastes. I have a lingering fondness for the old *Batmobile*, a much more majestic sight than this new thing! I hate the "Holy" expressions (though I sincerely feel that they are a temporary malady from the TV series, not a permanent disease—let's just hope the illness passes soon); I don't like many of the costumed villains; and I dislike the gadgets (those whatever-they-do flash guns could be erased and not bother me a bit!).

On the plus side, however, is that *Batman* (and *Robin*) has much, much more personality than he did in the old days. Instead of being just a specialized policeman, he is a playboy who dates, takes in sporting events, and exhibits emotion. And when editor and writer are "on", the stories (as in the March *Detective*) are better than ever.

As for the art, Miss Axelrod is mistaken—and that's that. Bob Kane's current art isn't what it used to be; but when Infantino and Greene lend their talents to the strip, then we have *Batman* art that is surpassed by none!

Finally, and most hopeful, is the direction in which the editor and his fine staff seem to be leading *Batman*, taking him away from costumed criminals and giving him back to gangster-dom, spies, thieves—in short, *realism*, with just the right touch of imagination to make it tantalizing.

The March issue's "Double-Deathtrap" was a remarkable well-constructed story. The manner in which the writer started out in the early part of the century; worked his way to the Cold War; juggled around a magician-escape artist; mnemonic devices, spies, and gangsters, finally fusing them into a unified whole; and then capped the yarn with a spectacular fight—is a lesson in the sheer virtuosity of comic magazine writing. I think this story should go down as the cleverest of the year. And many thanks for the extreme note of realism—killing off the two villains. Now don't get me wrong: I don't delight in violence, nor am I a homicidal maniac. But let's face it: *Batman* fights crime and much crime involves death.

—Paul Seydbr, State College, Pa.

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Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10027



# DIRECT CURRENTS

The Old Electrician is back with another battery of super-charged stories, so jam-full of electrifying action that they're sure to deliver the biggest jolt since someone told Ben Franklin to go fly a kite! But you aren't here to read introductions, no matter how magnificent the prose it's written in. So, without further ado—on to the previews of coming attractions!

What does it take to kill SGT. ROCK of EASY COMPANY? The startling answer ranges across three wars, in another explosive tale erupting in the **AUGUST OUR ARMY AT WAR**, No. 183, which reaches the newsstands on June 1—"SERGEANTS DON'T STAY DEAD!" If you miss this battle blockbuster, you'll never forgive yourself!

For the first time in his DC-checked career, **THE ATOM** gets the opportunity to fight foes as the **WORLD'S TALLEST SUPERHERO**—only to have his colossal size prove a **HANDICAP**! So down he shrinks to sub-standard size in "**THE UP-AND-DOWN DOOMS OF THE ATOM**"—in the **September issue**, No. 32, on sale June 1!

If you think **BADGER** is a baddie, wait'll you meet his kid-brother cut-up, **BEASTLEY**! The **DALTONS** and **JAMES BOYS** were angels compared to these two! When little **BEASTLEY** runs riot, everyone at **BENEDICT ARNOLD HIGH** trembles—but you'll shake with laughter at the beautiful baby contest which climaxes the **September BOB HOPE**, No. 106, on sale June 1!



He's back! Who? **RED'S** swinging brother, and this time he's got murder in his eye—because in his wild campaign to avenge **RED'S** death, this terrible teen teams up with a human powerhouse of peril in "**THE KOOK AND THE KILOWATT KILLER**," the newest smasheroo, in **September's CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN**, No. 57, on sale June 1!

If you expect to see the **SCARLET SPEEDSTER** on the cover of the August **FLASH**—forget it! He's been tangling with **GRODD**, the **SUPER-GORILLA**, and now all that's left of him is his **EMPTY UNIFORM**—the amazing development that occurs when "**GRODD PUTS THE SQUEEZE ON FLASH!**" in **issue No. 172**, on sale June 6!



The **BLOCKBUSTER** is the one foe who has proved too tough for **BATMAN**—but not for **BRUCE WAYNE**! Imagine, then, the peril that faces the **MASKLESS BATMAN** when he comes to grips with the **BRUTISH BEHEMOTH** and discovers that his **BRUCE** face can no longer protect him! "**THE BLOCKBUSTER GOES BAT-MAD**," in the **August issue**, No. 194, on sale June 6!

"**WHO DARES TO CHALLENGE THE 'ARSENAL'?**" That's the cry (as well as the title of our action-filled adventure) that rings through a cringing city. And who **DOES** dare? You guessed it—the **WORLD'S STRANGEST HEROES**, in the **August DOOM PATROL**, No. 113, on sale June 6! Also, another pulse-pounding installment of **BEAST BOY'S** life!

The world's **WEIRDEST** death-race is run off in the **September TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED**, No. 102! And there are two other entries romping close behind—"THE **DOOMSDAY DRUM**" and "**BANG! BANG! YOU'RE DEAD**"—mood-filled favorites, which will leave you gasping at the finish line! You can read 'em on June 6!

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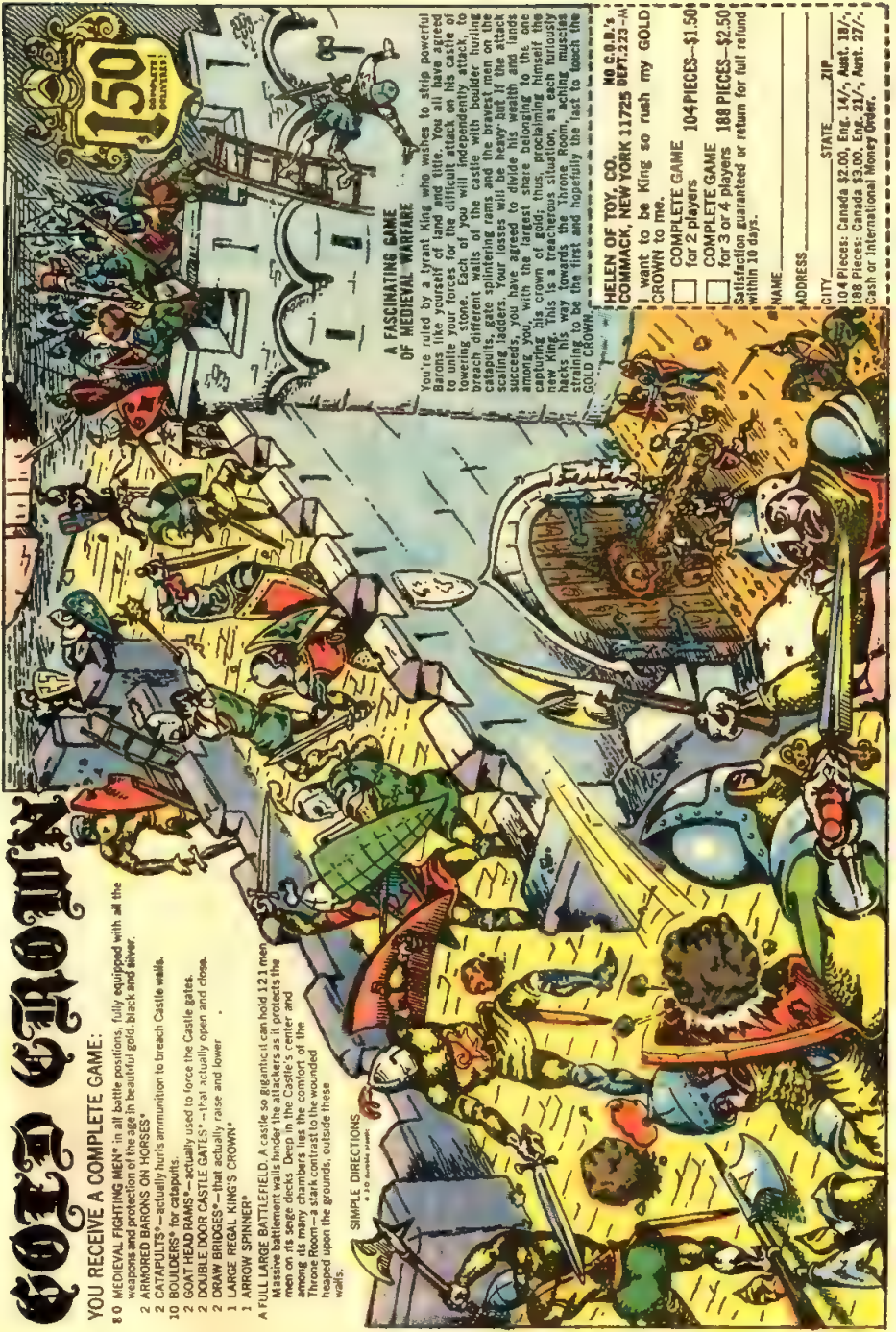
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**says  
Felipe Mendazo**

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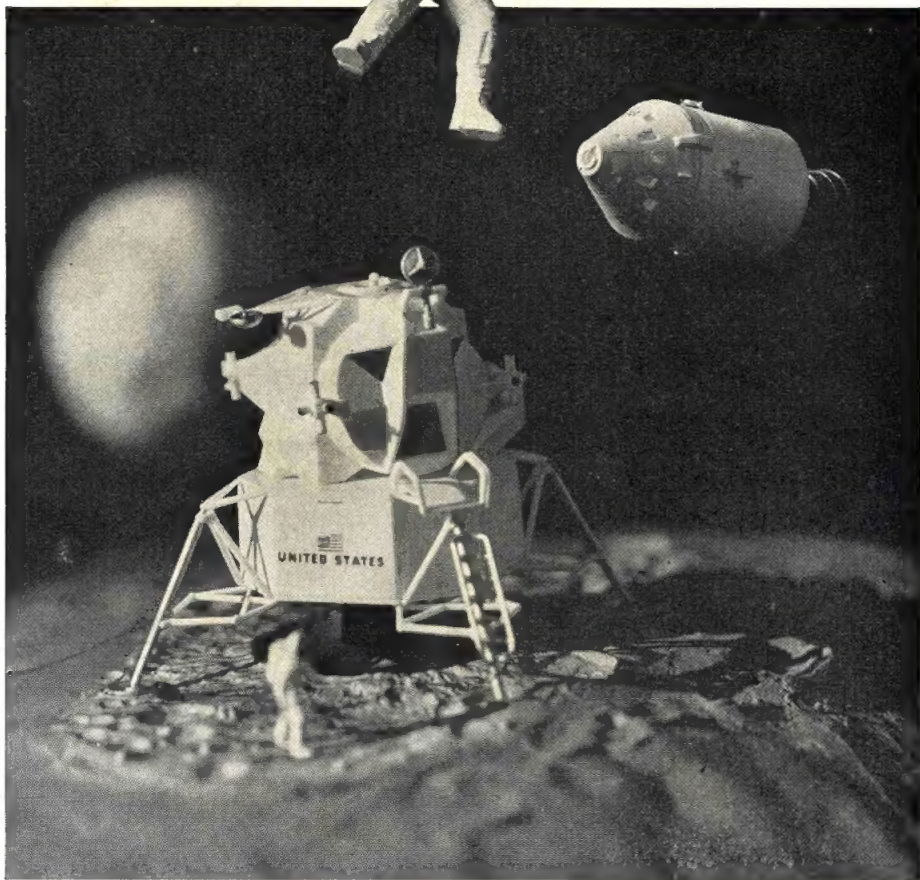


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